



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,002	02/02/2004	Rong-Gui Lin	MSCP0022USA	2001
27765	7590	08/24/2005	EXAMINER	
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION			BUI, HUNG S	
P.O. BOX 506			ART UNIT	
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			PAPER NUMBER	

2841

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,002

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyajima [US 5,455,743] in view of Kamada [US 5,252,798].

Regarding claim 1, Miyajima discloses a panel structure installed on an electric device (figure 7), the electric device comprises a circuit board (70), at least one indicating lamp (64) for displaying electric device and at least one button switch (112a) for putting the default command of the electronic device, the panel structure comprising:

- a panel (100) connected to the electric device for covering the circuit board, wherein the panel comprises at least one slotting (figure 7); and
- at least one button (112a) installed between the circuit board and the panel for matching the slotting, comprising:
 - o a prominent part (112), which is hollow and protruded from the slotting;
 - o a pressing part extended from the bottom of the prominent part (112b);
 - o an elastic frame extended from the bottom of the prominent part (figure 7), wherein the one end of the elastic frame is connected to the panel for holding the button slightly protruded from the slotting when the

Art Unit: 2841

button is not being forced and for making the pressing part contact with the button switch when the button is being forced.

Miyajima discloses the instant claimed invention except for the prominent part being a transparent.

Kamada discloses an illuminated switch apparatus (figure 1) having a prominent part being formed by transparent (11, column 1, lines 25-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a transparent prominent part design of Kamada for the prominent part of Miyajima, in order to view an indicator light.

Regarding claim 2, Miyajima further discloses the panel including a plurality of retainers for combining with the electric device (figure 7).

Regarding claim 3, Miyajima disclose the instant claimed invention except for the prominent part comprising a plurality of holes pervious to light emitted by the indicating lamp.

Kamada further discloses the prominent part comprising a plurality of holes pervious to light emitted by the indicating lamp (3, 4, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a plurality of holes on the prominent part of Miyajima, as suggested by Kamada, for the purpose of providing installation ^{of} a plurality of lamps or LEDs.

Regarding claim 4, Miyajima discloses the elastic frame having a joint part connected to the panel and a cantilever connected to the joint part and the pressing part (figure 7).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Watanabe [US 6,747,226] discloses an illuminated switch construction and pushbutton unit for illuminated switches;
- Jones [US 5,138,527] discloses an equipment control panel structure; and
- Kagawa [US 6,567,360] discloses a case construction of memory apparatus using portable recording medium.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2841

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/19/05
Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841

IB Patel
ISHWAR (I.B.) PATEL
Examiner
AU: 2841